

5. (Amended) The immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the spores are derived from a strain of *B. anthracis* chosen from the group consisting of the following strains: Sterne 7702, RPLC2 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes [National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms] held by the Institut Pasteur under the number I-2270, dated July 28, 1999) and RP42 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes held by the Institut Pasteur under the number I-2271, dated July 28, 1999).

6. (Amended) The immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the protective antigen is chosen from the group consisting of the purified protective antigens derived from any wild-type or mutated Sterne strain of *B. anthracis*, and the recombinant protective antigens.

Please add the following new claims.

12. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 3, wherein said vaccine composition further comprises at least one detoxified exotoxin selected from the group consisting of the lethal factor (LF) and the edematogenic factor (EF), which have been detoxified.

13. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 3, wherein the spores are derived from a strain of *B. anthracis* chosen from the group consisting of the following strains: Sterne 7702, RPLC2 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes [National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms] held by the Institut Pasteur under the number I-2270, dated July 28, 1999) and RP42 (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes held by the Institut Pasteur under the number I-2271, dated July 28, 1999).

14. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 3, wherein the protective antigen is chosen from the group consisting of the purified protective antigens derived from any wild-type or mutated Sterne strain of *B. anthracis*, and the recombinant protective antigens.

15. (New) The vaccine composition of claim 14, wherein the protective antigen is derived from the RP42 strain (Collection Nationale de Cultures et de Microorganismes [National Collection of Cultures and of Microorganisms] held by the Institut Pasteur under the number I-2271, dated July 28, 1999).